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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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INFO CSAF WASHDC
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OSAF WASHDC
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ESD HANSCOM AFB MA
ALL NATO CAPITALS
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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SECDEF FOR ODDR&E/IP/TWP, OASD/ISA/I&L. SECSTATE FOR EUR/RPM. CSAF FOR RD/XO/RDI/ATF/RDPW. OSAF FOR SAFRD. AFSC FOR SD. ESD FOR YWT. USCINCEUR FOR J-5. EMBASSY THE HAGUE, PASS TO RADLO FOR MIRMAN.

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, NATO, MILI, AWACS
SUBJECT: TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING, MAY 5, 1977
SUMMARY: THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP (HLG): REVIEWED THE STATUS OF ACTIVITIES TO DEVELOP A REVISED NATO AEW PROGRAM; AGREED THAT A WORKING PAPER ON FORCE SIZE AND BASING SHOULD BE COMPLETED AND SENT TO THE NATO MILITARY CONFIDENTIAL

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AUTHORITIES FOR COMMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE; ASKED NATIONS TO NOMINATE BASES FOR THE MAIN OPERATING BASE; REQUESTED ADDITIONAL MANPOWER FOR NATO AEW PROGRAM OFFICE (NAPO); AND NOTED THAT EUTRONIC HAD AGREED TO COMPLETE CURRENT TASKS AT NO INCREASED COST. THE FRG AND US REPS AGREED THAT REMAINING PREPARATORY PHASE FUNDS COULD BE USED THROUGH THE END OF 1977. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE CNAD HLG ON AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING HELD ITS 26TH MEETING AT NATO HEADQUARTERS ON MAY 5, 1977. COLONEL D. KORETZ AND LT COLONEL J. WANAMAKER, HQ USAF/RDPW, REPRESENTED THE UNITED STATES. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING FOLLOW.

2. AIR COMMODORE SCRIMGEOUR, NAPO PROGRAM MANAGER, PROVIDED THE HLG A SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY NAPO ON A REVISED PROGRAM IN LIGHT OF THE BRITISH DECISION TO PROCURE NIMROD AND THUS MAKE AN "IN KIND" CONTRIBUTION TOWARD MEETING NATO'S AEW REQUIREMENT. THE WORK ENCOMPASSES THE AREAS OF FORCE SIZE, CONFIGURATION, COSTS, BASING, LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND MANNING, INTEROPERABILITY AND COMMAND AND CONTROL. NAPO'S PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT IS THAT A FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY 18 AWACS, TOGETHER WITH 11 UK NIMRODS, COULD PROVIDE NEARLY THE SAME COVERAGE AS WAS PREVIOUSLY ASSUMED FOR A 27 AIRCRAFT AWACS FORCE. THE COST TO NATIONS OTHER THAN THE UK COULD BE SLIGHTLY LESS THAN FOR THE 27 AIRCRAFT PROGRAM, IF NATO TAKES ADVANTAGE OF CERTAIN OPPORTUNITIES FOR COST REDUCTIONS. THESE OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE INCREASED CONFIGURATION COMMONALITY WITH US E-3A, POSSIBLE EXPANDED PURCHASE OF USAF MAINTENANCE FACILITIES/SERVICES, JOINT USE BY NATO AND THE USAF OF EUROPEAN FACILITIES, AND INCREASED OFFSETS AND REDUCED INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATION. REGARDING PHASING OF NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS, SCRIMGEOUR SAID THAT SINCE THE UK'S CONTRIBUTION WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE EARLY IN THE PROGRAM, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE OTHER NATIONS WILL HAVE TO FIND A WAY TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF EARLY FUNDING.
3. THE HLG NOTED THE WORK WHICH HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AND AGREED TO THE NEED FOR A STATEMENT BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES (NMAS) RELATIVE TO FORCE SIZE AND MAIN OPERATING BASE (MOB) LOCATION. NAPO WILL DEVELOP A WORKING PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE NMAS FOR COMMENT. THE HLG ALSO NOTED THAT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS SHOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE MINISTERS CAN AGREE IN PRINCIPLE TO A NEW PROGRAM:

A. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES OF THE UTILITY OF A MIXED FORCE IN MEETING THE STATED REQUIREMENT.

B. DEVELOPMENT OF A REVISED PACKAGE PROPOSAL.

C. MEETINGS OF FINANCIAL EXPERTS TO ADDRESS COSTS AND SHARES.

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4. THE HLG NOTED THE INTEREST OF SEVERAL NATIONS IN THE POSSIBILITY OF HOSTING THE MOB. AS A CONSEQUENCE, THE HLG REQUESTED NATIONS TO NOMINATE BASES FOR THE MOB AND ALSO TO INDICATE THEIR CAPABILITY TO PROVIDE MAINTENANCE MANPOWER BY JUNE 1, 1977.

5. THE UK DECISION TO PROCEED WITH NIMROD INFLUENCES THE MANNING OF NAPO, WHICH CURRENTLY HAS 10 PEOPLE ON SECONDMENT FROM THE UK, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM WILL BE WITHDRAWN

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IN PHASES. THE HLG REQUESTED NATIONS TO CONSIDER PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL TO NAPO. THE CANADIAN REP OFFERED TWO MORE OFFICERS, THE NETHERLANDS REP OFFERED ONE, AND THE US REP SAID THE US COULD PROVIDE UP TO FOUR MORE OFFICERS. THE HLG ASKED OTHER NATIONS TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION FURTHER WITH A VIEW TOWARD PROVIDING ADDITIONAL MANPOWER.

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6. THE HLG APPROVED THE FUNDING NECESSARY TO CONTINUE THE MITRE AND SCICON SUPPORT TO THE NAPO THROUGH DECEMBER 1977.

7. UNDER THE PROVISO THAT A PRECEDENT WOULD NOT BE CONFIDENTIAL

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ESTABLISHED, THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIAN REPS REMOVED THEIR RESERVATIONS TO COMMON FUNDING OF TRANSLATION PROCESSOR COMPUTERS FOR NATIONAL SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE FACILITIES. THE HLG HAS NOW UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT NATIONAL TRANSLATION PROCESSORS SHOULD BE COMMONLY FUNDED.

8. THE HLG NOTED THE UK REPORT THAT EUTRONIC HAD AGREED TO COMPLETE ALL CURRENT TASKS RELATIVE TO THE GROUND ENVIRONMENT CONTRACT DEFINITION BY JUNE 30, 1977, AT NO INCREASED COST.

9. WITH REGARD TO FUNDING OF PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES, THE FRG AND US REPS AGREED THAT THEIR NATIONS' FUNDS, WHICH REMAIN FROM THE JUNE 29, 1976 STATEMENT OF UNDER-STANDING, WOULD REMAIN AVAILABLE THROUGH DECEMBER 1977. THE UK REP SAID UK FUNDS COULD BE USED FOR GENERAL PROGRAM EXPENSES THROUGH JUNE 30, 1977, AFTER WHICH TIME THEY COULD ONLY BE USED FOR THE GROUND ENVIRONMENT PHASE. FYI: APPROXIMATELY $5.6 MILLION WILL REMAIN IN THE PREPARATORY PHASE FUND ON JULY 1, 1977. END FYI.

10. THE HLG HAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED ITS NEXT MEETING AT NATO HEADQUARTERS ON JUNE 15 OR 16, 1977. STREATOR

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Subject: TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP ON AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING, MAY 5, 1977 SUMMARY: THE HIGH LEVEL GROUP (HLG): REVIEWED THE STATUS
TAGS: OCON, MILI, NATO
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